

Appendix table 7-50.

Visitors of science or technology museums one or more times per year: 1983–2001

Characteristic	1983	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001
Percent									
All adults	61	58	59	59	62	61	60	61	66
Male	62	58	57	59	60	59	63	63	64
Female	60	57	61	60	63	63	58	60	68
Formal education									
Less than high school	43	37	36	30	40	32	34	37	54
High school graduate	63	61	64	66	64	64	64	63	64
Baccalaureate degree	78	78	80	79	78	80	78	83	81
Graduate/professional degree	83	79	81	76	78	83	75	79	83
Attentiveness to science or technology^a									
Attentive public	72	70	61	69	67	71	68	73	75
Interested public	66	60	63	60	61	65	66	67	68
Residual public	51	53	56	57	61	54	51	52	62
Sample size (number)									
All adults	1,631	2,005	2,041	2,033	1,004	2,006	2,000	1,882	1,574
Male	775	950	958	964	486	953	930	900	751
Female	856	1,054	1,084	1,070	533	1,053	1,070	982	823
Less than high school graduate	404	507	530	495	215	418	420	403	116
High school graduate	941	1,147	1,158	1,202	623	1,196	1,188	1,111	834
Baccalaureate and higher	282	349	353	336	203	392	392	368	614
Attentive public to science and technology	208	235	233	229	105	195	288	216	195

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is "very interested" in that issue, is "very well informed" about it, and a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Individuals who report that they are "very interested" in an issue area but do not think that they are "very well informed" about it are classified as the "interested public." All other individuals are classified as members of the "residual public" for that issue. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTE: A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.